

REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated December 7, 2004. Claims 1-8 are amended. Claim 31, dependent from claim 1, is added. Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6 and 7 as being anticipated by Agar et al., allowed claims 9-30, and objected to claims 2-5 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the amendments above and the remarks below, claims 2-5 and 8 are not being put in independent form at this time, and the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 7, particularly in view of the above amendments. These claims are now directed to a coupler comprising first and second conductive lines having at least first and second coupled sections of unequal length, and an uncoupled section between the first and second coupled sections. Agar et al. disclose in Figure 3 an input phase delay network in which "each of the five lines or branches of the phase delay network has an electrical length that varies in a stepped fashion between power divider outputs 22 . . . and the power amplifier inputs 23. . ." Agar et al. do not disclose the claimed features. The Examiner has acknowledged that "the prior art does not teach uncoupled sections." Accordingly, the applicant submits that claims 1, 6 and 7 are not anticipated by Agar et al.

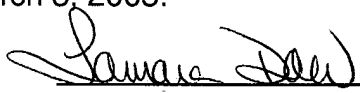
In the Office action, the Examiner provided a statement of reasons for allowance relating to claims 2-5 and 8-30 in which the applicant's claimed inventions were

paraphrased. The applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the allowed claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, the applicant believes that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the inventions as claimed, independent of how the inventions are paraphrased.

The applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

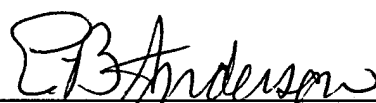
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 3, 2005.



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Respectfully submitted,

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